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SOUTH PLAINFIELD HEALTH DEPARTMENTFAX# (201) 754-1179

FAX COVER

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Cornell-Dubilier chronology

1961 Cornell-Dubilier moves out of Spicer plant at 333 Hamilton Blvd.

1983 or 1984 - a complaint to the S.P. Health Dept. from a former C-D employee who thought that waste from manufacture of capacitors, contaminated with PCBs, had been dumped into floodplain area behind the plant, caused Sanitarian Donna Ostman to ask DEP for assistance. A Mike Perotti, from the Solid Waste Management division, investigated. Had trouble contacting the site's owner, decided it would be difficult to determine where the contaminated waste had been dumped; no follow-through.

March, 1986. Environmental Specialist received an "anonymous tip" in form of an article in Pollution Engineering about C-D in New Bedford, Mass., being responsible for massive PCB contamination in New Bedford Harbor. Spoke to someone in the DEP Bureau of Environmental Measurement and Site Assessment, who promised to assign somebody to do a preliminary assessment.

June, 1986 My contact in site assessment was no longer working on the project. Told me that the plans to initiate a preliminary assessment of the C-D site in the next fiscal quarter (starting July, 1986) would be scrapped unless the U.S. Congress re-funded the Superfund. Gave me a new name to contact for future updates.

September 11, 1986 - Division of Site Evaluation came out to site and took water and soil samples. Donna Ostman and I were on-site, and located what appeared to be a dumping site for capacitors. The sampling team obliged us by taking a soil sample at this area in addition to the locations they had planned to sample.

April, 1987 - telephoned Site Assessment to ask for results. Was told that the data had been sent to the Division of Quality Assurance one month after the sampling date, and QAD had not returned the data yet.

May, 1987 - phoned Site Assessment. Was told that the data had come back "qualified", which means that due to inadequate procedures (in this case, the lab exceeded proper holding times) the data were considered inaccurate and could not be released.

- attended a DEP-sponsored conference on various environmental issues, intended to improve relationship with local level. Approached big-wigs on how to get some action.

-heard from the chief of the Bureau of Site Assessment, who had me talk to one of his people. Was told that there is no money available to resample site; however, not all of the data were qualified, and even though the PCB data were no good, there was enough evidence of toxicity that the site would be scored as a hazardous waste site and prioritized (volatile organics were found in addition to PCBs).

-wrote to the Office of Regulatory Services, formally requesting the data from the site.

July, 1987 - finally received copy of the lab results. Arochlor 1254, a PCB, was listed in concentrations of 25000 ug/kg in sediment,

680,000 ug/kg in soil. Also benzene, methylene chloride, phthalate, , dichloroethene, etc.

September, 1987 - John Bogden writes to John Trela, Director of the Division of Hazardous Waste Management, asking for action.

December, 1987 - Division of Waste Management, Bureau of Compliance and Technical Services, Responsible Party Investigation Unit sent an investigator. He took information from my file and from the building department regarding tenants on the site since C-D moved out. Was still working on this in January, 1988.

February, 1988 - Site Assessment told me the first part of the Responsible Party search had been completed. Cornell-Dubilier had been determined to be the Responsible Party. Now a financial search, to see what assets they have, was being done. If they can get C-D to clean up, they will; if not, the site will be prioritized for eventual DEP clean-up.

April, 1988 - called for a status report. No progress.

September, 1988 - the case went to the Bureau of Case Management in June. Due to a backlog, the case has not been assigned. Probably will be assigned to someone within two months. The responsible parties will be contacted and a remediation plan will be negotiated.